

What is claimed is:

- ~~1. A method for detecting the presence of CD163 in a biological sample comprising:~~
 - ~~a) contacting the sample with a CD163 capture antibody to form a CD163-antibody complex; and~~
 - ~~b) contacting the CD163-antibody complex with a CD163 detection antibody so that levels of CD163 in the sample are detected.~~
- ~~2. The method of claim 1 wherein the CD163 capture antibody is MAC2-158 or MAC2-48 and the CD163 detection antibody is RM3/1.~~
- ~~3. The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample is human plasma.~~
- ~~4. A method for monitoring the course of an inflammatory condition or inflammatory process comprising detecting the presence of CD163 in biological samples via the method of claim 1.~~
- ~~5. A composition for prevention or treatment of inflammation comprising CD163.~~
- ~~20 6. The composition of claim 5 further comprising a glucocorticoid.~~
- ~~7. A method for reducing the signs and symptoms of inflammation comprising contacting cells or tissues with the composition of claim 5.~~
- ~~25 8. A method for reducing the signs and symptoms of inflammation comprising contacting cells or tissues with the composition of claim 6.~~

9. A method for preventing or treating inflammation in an animal comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the composition of claim 5.

10. A method for preventing or treating inflammation in an animal comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the composition of claim 6.